

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

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R 061600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR AG

SUBJECT: FRENCH-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: GOF CAUTIOUSLY  
OPTIMISTIC

REF: PARIS 3124 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. QUAI NORTH AFRICAN EXPERT SAYS SIGNALS COMING  
FROM ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT INDICATE GOA'S MEASURED REAC-  
TION TO GISCARD'S NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR ARTICLE MAY BE  
FAVORABLE. GOA IS STILL THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT QUAI  
FEELS THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE BOUMEDIENE WAS FAVOR-  
ABLY IMPRESSED BY GISCARD'S STATEMENT THAT ALGERIAN  
SOCIALISM IS IRREVERSIBLE. IN ADDITION, QUAI FEELS  
THAT FRENCH VOTE IN FAVOR OF ARAB RESOLUTION IN SECURITY  
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COUNCIL HAS WON LIBYAN SUPPORT, AND ALGERIANS CURRENTLY

SENSITIVE TO LIBYAN INFLUENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE CALLED ON QUAI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA TRISTAN D'ALBIS TO DISCUSS STATE OF PLAY IN FRENCH-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. ALBIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EL MOUJAHID CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE GISCARD'S INTERVIEW IN THE FEBRUARY 2 ISSUE OF NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR (REFTEL), BUT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE ALGIERS NEWSPAPER MAY BE REFLECTING A LINE THAT IS NO LONGER VALID. THE GOA HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY RESPONDED TO GISCARD'S INTERVIEW. THEY ARE CLEARLY THINKING IT OVER CAREFULLY AND MEASURING EVERY WORD. BUT SIGNALS COMING TO THE QUAI FROM RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE THAT SOME OF THE VIBRATIONS ARE POSITIVE, ALBIS SAID.

2. THE MOST FAVORABLE IMPACT CAME FROM GISCARD'S STATEMENT THAT HE ACCEPTS ALGERIA'S SOCIALIST OPTION WHICH IS IRREVERSIBLE. THE ALGERIANS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT A WASHINGTON-PARIS-MADRID-RABAT AXIS ALLEGEDLY OPERATING TO DESTROY THEIR SOCIALIST FORM OF SOCIETY. GISCARD'S STATEMENT IS CONSIDERED BOTH SINCERE AND SIGNIFICANT.

3. THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT WHAT GISCARD SAID, BUT WHAT HE DID IN ORDERING THE FRENCH UN DELEGATION TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ARAB RESOLUTION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ALBIS SAID THAT LIBYA'S PUBLIC CONGRATULATORY COMMENT ON THE FRENCH VOTE HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ALGIERS, ESPECIALLY LIBYA'S INSISTENCE THAT PALESTINE IS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE ARABS.

4. THE ALGERIANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE TOUGH ON THE GOF'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN-SPANISH AGREEMENT FOR CONTROL OF THE SAHARA. NEVERTHELESS, ALBIS EXPRESSED THE GUARDED VIEW THAT THE ALGERIANS WILL FIND A WAY TO RECIPROCATATE GISCARD'S GESTURE.  
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